

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us.... Amen.



(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways

and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps. 79)

R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. [R]

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. [R]

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. [R]

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!



GOSPEL Mark 13:33-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming,

evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

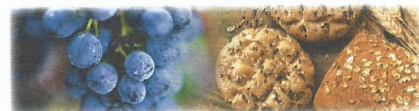
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

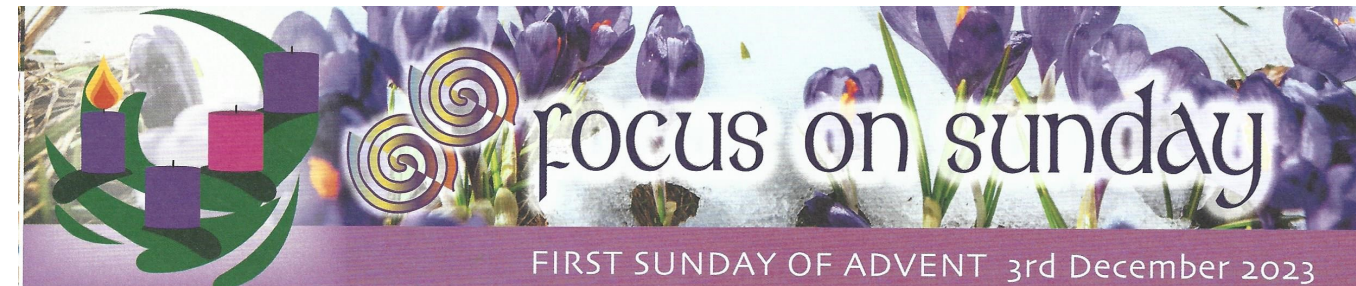
Pray brothers and sisters..... May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.



Advent is a reminder that our life on earth is a preparation for the life of eternity in heaven; and that we wait for the coming of Christ to take us home.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.

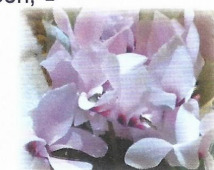
THE ADVENT WREATH

The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God who is without beginning and without end. The purple ribbon and three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The red candle stands for joy of living in God's way of love. Today the first purple candle is lit as we begin our preparations for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.



CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen. Go in peace. Thanks be to God.



Stay awake



We begin Advent and a new Church year with a reading from a section of Mark's Gospel known as the 'Apocalyptic Discourse'. This is Jesus' farewell speech to his disciples where sketches an image of the world which will be hostile to his message and to his followers. In the final parable, Jesus urges total trust in God's cosmic plan and calls for vigilance: 'Keep awake'. And, whether we like it or not, this text is also addressed to each of us: 'What I say to you, I say to all.' The story of Jesus is told to bring readers into a greater awareness, to help spiritual growth and transformation in life. Mark's first audience experienced many obstacles as they lived under the fear of persecution, but the greater danger expressed in this text is the danger of sleepwalking through life.

While this might not sound like a very cheery text with which to begin the joyful season of Advent, we dare to read this narrative through the lens of hope. Instead of worrying about when the 'master of the house' will return, we can focus instead on what we do in our daily lives to aid our own awakening: perhaps we need to slow down in order to wake up, to create quiet spaces for ourselves, to reflect a little more deeply, to find the stillness we truly need. Challenges lie ahead, that much is guaranteed, but so do amazing possibilities. For great things can happen when we truly wake up and respond to the reality of the world around us. Let awe and wonder grow and be prepared for the coming of the true Christmas Gift.

Jane Mellett

Adapted from "The Deep End - A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Mark" (Messenger Publications, Dublin, 2003).

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Many people think that God is far away, and is like a judge watching our faults. Jesus is always inviting us to see God in a new way, to 'wake up,' that we have A Loving Father, who always loves us in good days and sad days. God is near and present in the beauty of the world and all its colours, green grass and flowers, rivers and mountains, sport and new exciting ideas. God's special presence is in the new baby and the faces of all people. Going to Mass celebrates God with us all the time.

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal: © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Robin Photo by Tom Clements. Published by Logos Publications, 26 Tolka Valley Business Park, Ballybogdan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, BALLYHAUNIS

PARISH NEWSLETTER 3rd DECEMBER 2023

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Email: ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com Parish Office: 094-9630006

PARISH WEBSITE: <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie>

PARISH RADIO: 105.2FM Newsletter on line: Parish website & www.mcnmedia.tv

Web-cam: <http://www.ballyhaunisparish.ie> or www.mcnmedia.tv

Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) Jacinta Flynn, (contact the parish office)

Emergency numbers:

Knock: 094-9388100

Fr. Feeney, Ballinlough: 094-9640155

Fr. McGuinness, Bekan: 094-9313937

ANNIVERSARY MASSES 4th-9th DECEMBER 2023

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am. Saturday 7.30pm.

Delia & John Culliney, Johnstown & Philadelphia
 Denise & Michael Nolan, Togher & decd. of the Nolan & Burton families
 Barry Butler, Doctor's Road
 Mary Fahey, Lecarrow & decd. of the Fahey & Armstrong families
 Edward & Teresa McHugh, Main St.
 Vera & John Waldron & decd. Scrigg
 Ann McHugh, Devlis
 John Dowling, Ballyglass, Michael Dowling, Kent & decd. of the Dowling & Hunt families
 Michael Hopkins & decd. Island
 Mona Molloy, Gurrane
 Joe Glynn & decd. Bushisland
 Pat, Teresa & John Lyons, Skeghard & decd. of the Lyons & Waldron families
 Maisin Meath, Clare St.
 Mary & Pat McHugh, Headford & decd. of the Costello & Lohan families, Corofin
 Clarence, Delia & Joe Grogan and Conor Dempsey
 Colette Purcell, Castlebar & Abbeyquarter
 Ann Powers, Devlis
 Mike Mulrennan, Bracklaghboy & decd. of the Mulrennan family, Gurteen
 Peter & Imelda Murphy (née Sloyan), Brackloon, Aghamore & Cork
 Denis, Geraldine & Seamus Sloyan, Peter Cafferky & decd. of the Sloyan & King families

| 4th-10th Dec. | READERS | MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST |
|---------------|----------------------|--|
| Monday | Martin Fitzmaurice | Joe Byrne, Irene Healy |
| Tuesday | Willie Broderick | Lorraine Waldron, Helen Freeley |
| Wednesday | Mary Donnelly | Margaret Byrne, Mary Sykes |
| Friday | Christina Concannon | Mary Freeley, Marie Brennan |
| Sat 7.30pm | 1st Communion parent | Jenny Glynn, Tim Byrne, Frances Mulhern, Seamus Mulrennan |
| Sunday 10am | Joan Flanagan | Eileen Donnellan, Daniella Balbino Romao, Patricia Plunkett, Mary Murphy |

COLLECTORS FOR DECEMBER

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Sat. 7.30pm | Pat Devine, John Jordan, Gideone Alves da Silva, Peter McCafferty |
| Sun. 10am | Martin Finan, Gabriel Smith, Seamus Coffey, Jaroslav Drunnik |

MASS SERVERS FOR DECEMBER

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Sat. 7.30pm | Team A—Katie & Niamh Conlon, Cara Walsh, Eva Grace Kilcourse |
| Sun. 10am | Team B—Evan & Olivia Feeney, Ben Jordan, Jonathan Powers |

Recently Deceased - We remember in our prayers
 Michael Cassidy, Crossard, Tooreen & London



MASSES:

Monday, Tuesday,
 Wednesday, Friday 10.00am.
 Saturday Evening Vigil:
 7.30pm
 Sunday: 10.00am.

CONFESSIONS:

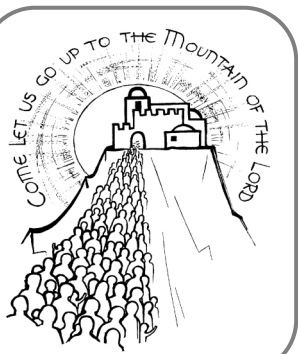
Before Saturday Vigil Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Between 9am & 7pm daily.

BAPTISMS

First Saturday & third Sunday of the month at 11.00am. Minimum of four weeks' notice required. Contact the parish office, 094-9630006.



All weekday and weekend Masses, and the daily Rosary at 9pm Mondays to Fridays, continue to be broadcast on parish radio 105.2 FM and streamed on the parish webcam:

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-patricks-church-ballyhaunis> or on the website: www.ballyhaunisparish.ie

Sunday Mass will be broadcast live on Midwest Radio on 3rd, 10th, 17th and 31st Dec. and on Christmas Day at 10am.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is next Friday 8th December. Mass will be celebrated at 10am with the Scoil Íosa Children's Choir providing the music & singing.

GROW IN LOVE: The preparation programme for children who will celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion in 2024 continues at 7.30pm Mass next Saturday evening 9th December. Our focus this month is on helping the children learn how to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. May we all try our best to keep our focus on Jesus as the "reason for the season" this Advent.

ADVENT: This Sunday 3rd December is the first Sunday of Advent, and marks the beginning of the Church Liturgical Year. Advent is a season of hope, joy & love, and a series of events will take place at Knock Shrine this month, as we journey towards the celebration of the birth of Our Lord. These include:-
SEEING IS BELIEVING: Reflecting on art as a glimpse of The Sacred—Sat. 9th & 16th Dec. at 10.30am in the Prayer Centre, Knock Shrine. With these illustrated lectures, Dr. Nora Donnelly hopes to help not only to make some sense of Art, but to make new sense by attending to what we see just for its own sake, and in this way, to show that God is embedded in all things visual, and that our world is charged with the wonder of His presence. Booking required on Eventbrite.

ALL-NIGHT VIGIL AT KNOCK SHRINE on Thursday 7th December. The All-Night Vigil is a long-standing tradition at Knock Shrine on the date of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Starting with Confessions from 10pm to midnight on 7th December, followed by Rosary, Holy Hour, reflections and private prayer, concluding with Mass at 4am.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE: An evening of quiet prayer & music takes place on Tuesday 19th Dec. from 8 to 9pm in the Chapel of Reconciliation.

ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR: Archbishop Eamon Martin has launched the Advent 2023 online calendar. This is the 10th year of the calendar and, as a door opens each day, viewers will see brief personal video reflections on the Advent season from lay men & women, young people & clergy. It invites each of us to make space for God in our lives every day over the next 4 weeks, to enrich our experience of Christmas and is available on catholicbishops.ie/adventcalendar

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Collection envelopes for the local branch of St. Vincent de Paul are available in the Church porch and in local outlets. Donations can be returned to the collection box in the church at Mass times, or to Fr. Stephen's house. Donations can also be made online to Account No. 55855348 IBAN: IE96 BOFI 9037 2855 8553 48 BIC: BOFIE2D
 If your or your family are in need of help this Christmas, please outline your specific needs in writing to Ballyhaunis SVP, The Friary House, Ballyhaunis.

Offertory Collection

Sunday 26th Nov. 2023
 €2,180

BALLYHAUNIS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS will be switched on this Sunday 3rd Dec. Starts with music & carol singing at 4pm & blessing of the crib, followed by the official switch on of the lights at 5pm, and a visitor from the North Pole! All welcome.

MAYO SPCA Christmas Fair takes place this Sunday 3rd December in the Community Hall—please support.

KNOCK CHRISTMAS MARKET: The annual Christmas Market will take place indoors at St John's Welcome Centre in Knock next Sunday 10th Dec from 10am to 4 pm. A festive event with wonderful handmade gifts by Irish crafters.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY: The annual party will be held next Sunday 10th Dec. in Clare Court. If you would like to attend, call Aisling on 086 1229702 or Elma on 086 0749032 as soon as possible to confirm numbers for catering.

FESTIVE FAVOURITES AT THE FRIARY: A Christmas Carol service will take place in the historic Ballyhaunis Friary on Sunday 17th December at 7pm, featuring the Abbey Male Choir, Parish Choir, Scoil Íosa Children's Choir and Le Cárde. Donations on the evening to the local St. Vincent de Paul.

TUAM CANCER CARE will hold their annual Christmas Mass "A Christmas Celebration of Light, Hope & Healing" on Thurs. 14th Dec. at 8pm in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam followed by refreshments. All welcome.

LATIN MASS: The next Latin Mass will take place in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Knock on Sunday 10th Dec. at 6pm.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO EMIGRANTS: As we are updating our database this year, if you have family members & friends abroad who would appreciate a card from the parish, please email their names & addresses **as soon as possible** to ballyhaunisparish@gmail.com, or drop into the parish office.

JOB VACANCY: The National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland wishes to appoint a Director of Training & Support. The successful candidate will be based in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Closing date for applications is 19th December. To request more details, email admin@safeguarding.ie

TREE PLANTING: The Abbey Partnership welcomes everyone to join on Saturday next 9th Dec. at 10.30am for the planting of An Choill Bheag (The Little Wood) in the Friary grounds. An Taisce arborists will guide the planting and supply a mix of native Irish trees. Any queries to 087 9777899.

KILMOVEE HERITAGE presents December Cois Tine Night on Monday 4th Dec. at 8.30pm in Kilmovee Community Centre with live music, song, dancing, homebaked goods & raffle.

ICA: Next meeting of Cill Tullach ICA takes place on Thursday 7th Dec. at 8pm in Granlahan Community Centre. New members always welcome. Contact Carmel at 087 2125340.

ANNAGH MAGAZINE: The 46th edition of the Annagh Magazine is now on sale in all the usual outlets, priced €12. It contains over 200 pages of articles, reports and photographs and would make an ideal gift for Ballyhaunis people overseas. The Annagh Magazine Society would like to thank all those who submitted articles and photos, and our generous patrons—all of whom helped to bring Annagh 2023 to fruition.

BALLYHAUNIS GAA CLUB AGM will take place on Sat. 9th December at 6pm in the Community Hall. All welcome.